GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1355
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2005
QUARRY INDUSTRIES
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of Quarry Industry in the country, State-wise, including its salient features;

(b) its contribution in the National Economy during the last five years;

(c) the occupational and health hazards caused by the industry;

(d) the impact of the industry on the environment both in the short and long term;

(e) whether the Government has conducted any study/survey for making a realistic appraisal of the industry;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the efforts made/proposed to be made for restoring the environment degraded by the industry, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (Dr. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b) : The Ministry of Mines is mainly concerned with mining of non-fuel and non-atomic minerals. The term quarry industry is generally associated with extraction of stones, which are minor minerals. In terms of section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, all powers to make rules for grant of quarry leases, mineral concessions, levy and collection of royalty etc. in respect of minor minerals are with State Governments. However as per estimates of Central Statistical Organisation, the contribution of mining and quarry sector at the current prices for last 5 years is given below:

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Total GDP	Mining and Quarrying	Percentage share
1999-2000	1761838	41298	2.34
2000-2001	1902999	45399	2.39
2001-2002	2081474	47925	2.30
2002-2003	2254888	62116	2.75
2003-2004 (QE)	2519785	63357	2.51

QE : Quick Estimate.

(c) The matters relating to occupational and health hazards caused in a mine have been dealt with under the Mines Act, 1952 which is administered by Ministry of Labour. A separate directorate, namely Directorate General of Mines Safety under Ministry of Labour has also been set up for the purpose.

(d) to (g): All mineral concessions are granted by the State Governments under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. Only in respect of minerals specified in First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, the State Governments are required to obtain prior approval of the Central Government before grant of mineral concessions. The lease holders are also required to obtain environment clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, which is administered by Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Ministry of Mines has not conducted any general survey or study on impact of mining industry as a whole on environment. However, the

Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) a subordinate office under the control of Ministry of Mines ensures implementation of mining plan in individual cases which is required to be prepared and approved before grant of mining lease for all major minerals and inter-alia incorporates assessment of impact of mining activity on forest, land surface and environment including air and water pollution; details of scheme of restoration of the area by afforestation, land reclamation, use of pollution control devices and such other measures as may be directed by the Central Government or the State Government from time to time.

Ministry of Mines has introduced the concept of mine closure plan whereby the lessee has to undertake protective, reclamation and rehabilitation measures before closure of mining operation so that mined out areas are restored back once the mining operations cease.